

From: dfarrand@wyoming.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:09am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing this to express my opposition to the proposed Microsoft Settlement.

Microsoft in my view and in the courts view is a illegal monopolist who has seriously damaged many companies and the software/computing industry in general.

Microsoft Word and Excel are the defacto standards for document exchange. You cannot be in business without owning these applications. Most people get these apps when they buy their computer. Generally Word and Excel are included if you are buying Microsofts operating system on a new system.

However, if you do not buy windows, you have to purchase Office through retail and the cost is \$500.00. This is an outrageous price and proves the lie that the MS monopoly has been benign for the consumer. A similar application called Apple Works that provides 80% of the functionality sells for \$79.00. MS is able to maintain it's price point for Office because they control the document format and you have to be able to read and write in that format to do business.

Any settlement of the MS monopoly should force MS to make the complete document format for WORD and EXCEL public domain - they should also be forced to provide translator code for all competing platforms.

I think there are also serious problems with MS's active suppression of JAVA and it's .Net initiatives.

Recently it has been reported that many of the patents for Open GL (a competitor to MS directX 2D/3D imaging model) have been transferred to MS by SGI for the purpose of damaging Open GL.

Much of the vulnerability of the internet is directly related to the unnatural dominance of MS products on desktop and servers. Any settlement must recognize the huge costs that have been indirectly inflicted on people through their negligent attitude toward security. It is their monopoly status that permits them to ignore the poor quality of their products without suffering in the market place.

The proposed remedy is no remedy at all and in fact will further damage competitors, consumers and the computing industry in general

Regards

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